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CIA Chiefs: A Study in Contrasts

✓ Washington, May 10 (News Bureau)—James Rodney Schlesinger, a handsome, precise, pipe-smoking academic, will move into his fourth high-level national security post with the Nixon administration if he is confirmed as Secretary of Defense.

Schlesinger, 44, hardly had time to find his way around the labyrinthine corridors of the Central Intelligence Agency, where he took over as director last Feb. 2, before the President had plucked him away.

He was sharply critical yesterday of his own agency for what he called its "ill-advised" cooperation with a White House request for materials to be used against Pentagon Papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg. The CIA involvement in the burglary at the office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist came long before Schlesinger succeeded Richard M. Helms as CIA chief.

A Harvard Ph.D. and former senior staff member at the Rand Corp. think tank in California, Schlesinger joined the administration in its first month as Assistant Budget Director in charge of national security programs. He became chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission in August 1971.

Married since 1954 to the former Rachel Melinger, Schlesinger is the father of four sons and four daughters. They live in Arlington, Va.

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✓ William Egan Colby, 53, who succeeds Schles-

inger as director of central intelligence, is a longtime spy who for several years headed the controversial "Project Phoenix," a program of political assassination directed at suspected Communist leaders in South Vietnam.

Currently the deputy CIA director for operations—known as the "department of dirty tricks"—Colby volunteered for the Office of Strategic Services, World War II forerunner of the CIA, in 1943. After wartime service with the French resistance behind enemy lines, he obtained a law degree from Columbia Law School and joined a New York firm headed by former OSS director Gen. William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan.

He held a series of government jobs with the National Labor Relations Board and the State Department before he became chief of the CIA's Far Eastern division in 1962. In 1968, he returned to Saigon, where he had served as first secretary of the U.S. Embassy from 1959 to 1962, to head the U.S. pacification program in South Vietnam in the wake of the Tet offensive. His responsibilities included directing Project Phoenix.

A tough administrator with piercing blue eyes, he worked a man-killing pace and spent many days in the field in Vietnam.

Colby became controller of the CIA in January 1972, and deputy chief for operations last March 3. He is married and according to the CIA, has "a number of children" and lives in Bethesda, Md.